



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KAZAKHSTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Skills for the Country's Future

Internationally-recognized accounting qualifications gain standing in Kazakhstan.



Azhar Karamendinova, member of the Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Photo: Pragma

USAID-supported international accounting certification program helps Kazakhstan introduce international financial reporting standards.

Upon adoption of the international financial reporting standards, Kazakhstan the country faced a personnel problem, since development of the accounting system is inseparably connected with improvement of audit activities. However, the quality of services offered by audit companies did not always correspond to the desired level, since the country had few professionals familiar with the international financial reporting standards.

To improve qualification of local specialists, USAID developed a Russian-language international program of professional certification of accountants. The program teaches a range of accounting and auditing skills and offers to levels of certification – Certified Accounting Professional and Certified International Professional Accountant – based on the international standards of financial reporting. Over the years, the program has taught and certified over 5,000 of Kazakh professionals in the two qualifications.

Azhar Karamendinova, the Chief Accountant of the Affiliate Office of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Kazakhstan and a member of the country's Chamber of Auditors, is one of the many that have benefited from the program. A graduate from the Kazakh State Academy of Management with a degree in Accounting and Operating Analysis. Even though she already had auditor's qualification, Azhar wanted to continue advancing her skills, and in 2003, she enrolled into the USAID-supported international program on certification of professional accountants, to study towards the Certified Accounting Practitioner qualification, CAP.

Two years after she received this certificate, Azhar joined the next-level program for the qualification of Certified International Professional Accountant, CIPA. The program was taught by USAID-trained specialists who had passed those exams themselves and knew the best way to convey their knowledge to students. "Excellent textbooks, training materials, and a large number of practical examples, which undoubtedly will be useful in real life, make this program very valuable," – believes Azhar.

Even though she struggled to find time in her busy schedule to prepare for exams, Azhar believes that CIPA qualification is extremely valuable, since it gives not only knowledge and fast career growth, but also provides the country with highly qualified specialists. "In the time of tight competition on the employment market, I believe that the training on these programs and passing of the qualification examination is a great asset," – says Azhar.